

SPECIAL
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QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY
AT KINGSTON

KINGSTON ONTARIO CANADA

A Learned
DISSERTATION
UPON

Old W O M E N,
Male and Female, Spiritual
and Temporal, in all Ages;

W H E T H E R
In C H U R C H, S T A T E, or
E X C H A N G E - A L L E Y.

*Very seasonable to be read at all Times, but
especially at particular Times.*

To which is added,
An ESSAY upon the present U N I O N
of the W H I G - C H I E F S.

*On donne des Conseils, mais on n'inspire Point de
Conduite.* R O C H E F O U C A U L T.

The S E C O N D E D I T I O N.

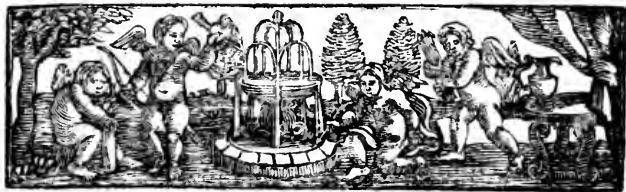
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A

Learned *Dissertation*

U P O N

Old W O M E N, &c.



IT is recorded in the Memo-
ries of divers Story-Tellers
in and about this Metropolis,
that the Sage and Eloquent
Dr. *Byfield*, who goeth about,
pouring forth his Divine
Breathings in Coffee-Houses,
and presenting his Books *Gratis* to all who will
pay him for them : I say it is credibly report-
ed that the said Doctor having a Suit in Chan-
cery with a certain Chymist, and a venerable
Serjeant being of Counsel for his Adversary ;
he, the said Doctor, humbly mov'd my Lord
Chancellor that Mrs. *Byfield*, the Wife of him
the said Doctor, might be allowed to answer
and refute the Harangue of him the said

Serjeant; and mark the Reason! *for* (said the Doctor) *she, My Lord, is an Old Woman too!*

Whether this his Request was granted, or only entered upon Record, the Tradition sayeth not. If the Challenge was not accepted, surely it is great Pity; seeing that from a Match so Natural, and a Contention so Equal, much Elegant Entertainment would have resulted to the Grave and Learned Brothers (or shall I rather say, *Sisters*) of the Long Robe, who, during the Strife, must have stood strangely and equally poiz'd in their Affections and Wishes, as being equally allied to either Combatant. I have, indeed, heard it urged, by the Partizans of the Old Woman in Petty-coats, that the Other in the Coif, jealous of his Reputation, and doubtful how the Issue might determine the Prize of Eloquence, fled the Pir, and left, ingloriously, his Antagonist whetting her Gums, and mumbling Revenge. But the Learned and Acute Sir ———, Knight, Serjeant at Law, does, *with great Submission*, conceive, that this last *Clause* of the Tradition wants *Proof*.

I must own it would have been exceeding Unnatural and Unscriptural for Mrs. *Byfield* and the Serjeant to have entered the Lists against each other, upon this Occasion; or, indeed, upon any other whatsoever: Forasmuch as is written in the Hundred Thirtieth and Third Psalm, Verse the First; *Behold how good and how pleasant it is for BRETHREN to dwell together in Unity*: And therefore it is my own private Opinion of this Matter, that the whole Bench and Bar, taking it into their serious Consideration, as what might affect them

them all, offered their Mediation, and stop'd the Progress of their pernicious Difference. And in this I have the concurring Opinions of ——— and ——— and ——— and ——— and ——— with several Others, all *able Lawyers*, and Parties concerned.

There is a waggish Acquaintance of mine, who carries the Analogy between Old Women and grave Barristers, further than, in my Judgment, Need requires he should. ' Don't you observe, says he, that they have ' the same Enmity to Silence, and possess the ' same Eternal Wetness of Beard? Pray, distinguish, if you can, between Pleading and ' Scolding; and, whatever you do, mark that ' hobbling Amble in their Gate; that involuntary Nod of the Head; that contracted ' plodding Forehead; that wise unmeaning ' Face, and these desolate Gums! and then, ' confess the invincible Likeness—— I would ' furthermore put you in Mind of their Equal Taste in Dress, and their Equal Resemblance therein—— Black Gowns and ' red Petticoats! two Colours, in which it ' is heard to say, whether my Lord J—e ' mimicks *Granny*, or *Granny* my Lord J—e! ' *Granny* moreover wears forward Night- ' Cloaths, and ties her Pinnars before, to ' hide a Bald-Pate; and Mr. Serjeant, and ' his Betters, bury their Faces in mighty Periwigs, which environ either Chap, and lie, ' like comely Mares Tails, on either Breast—— ' for why, they are only Hairy Machines to ' conceal long Ears!

At

At the Assizes in *Carmarthen-Shire*, some Years ago, a *Welshman*, who had never seen so fine a Shew before, asked a Neighbour of his, who was knowing in these Matters, ‘ What Shentleman was that upon the Pench ‘ in hur Cown, and hur Pelt, and her Plack ‘ Cap?’ *Why, marry, quoth Morgan, hur is an Old Woman that takes hur Nap upon her Cushion, and then hur tells the Shewry hur Tream.*

It is plain from *St. Paul*, that Old Wives Fables were current and prevailing in his Time, and he warns *St. Timothy*, (the most Reverend, the Lord Archbishop of *Ephesus*,) against them; desiring *his Grace*, to *exercise himself rather unto Godliness*. But notwithstanding that the Apostle’s Works are still read, tho’ they do not say a Word of *South-Sea Stock*; yet Old Wives are in as good Esteem as ever, and their Tales bear as good a Price. There is particularly a numerous Tribe of Ancient Gentlewomen, call’d *Schoolmen* and *Fathers*, who are reputed a Company of Venerable Gossips, whose Evidence may be taken in Trials about *Norwich Crapes*, wide-knee’d Breeches, the Power of the Constable, the Primitive Institution of Parish-Clerks, the Decimation of Eggs by Original Patent, Whoring, Scolding, and Court’fying towards the Rising-Sun; and the like momentous Points between Men and Monks.

But it is very true, that these old Bodies do often contradict one another in their Evidence; either because they know not the Truth, or will not speak it; both which are frequently the Case——. But here a ready Expedient is offered; for the *pious Attornies* who

who produce them, modestly reject every part of the Evidence which makes against them, as *forged* or *erroneous*, and are pleased only to accept so much of the same, as makes for them, as undoubtedly *genuine* and *valid*. And if no part of it will serve their Turn ; yet we, the Defendants, are bound to believe that it does ; and that is as well. For the *pious* Attornies above-written, claim, from Time immemorial, a Right to be Prosecutors, and Judges, and Witnesses ; at least, Witnesses for their Witnesses, in every Law-Suit which they undertake And, if we do not acquiesce in all this, a Lawyer of this sort has told us, what Sentence we are to expect ; even this, *G—— d——mn you, and yours to all Eternity.* (Tale of a Tub in 120. p. 104.)

The Admirers and Followers of these old dusty Gossips, are themselves of the same Character and Predicament ; for, as the Saying is, *Old Women of all Religions are the same.* We are not therefore to wonder, if we find in the whole Breed, an equal Appetite for Flogging, Hoarding, Backbiting, and Scolding. From Gammar Aaron down to Gammar Satanastus, and from Gammar Satanastus down to Gammar Becket, and from Gammar Becket down to Gammar Laud, and from Gammar Laud (keeping still in the same See) down to Gammar —— you find the self same Spirit, and the self same Arts. The Multitude have been still bubbled, and taught or scared into the Worship of golden Calves, or black Calves, or some other sorts of Calves : And the same Lying, Falshood,

and

and Cruelty, have gone on in an *uninterrupted Line of Succession*, and uninterrupted Submission.

It is marvellous and inconceivable, the Stupidity and Duncibleness of Mankind. ' O World! when wilt thou come out of ' thy Infancy, and assume a Beard ; and a ' Mind worthy of that Beard ! learn to despise *long Coats* ; reject thy Leaders and ' thy Leading-Strings ; stand upon thy own ' Legs ; be of Age ; look round thee, and ' distinguish, at last, Truth and Freedom ' from Restraint and Disguises. But in Case, ' my dearest Child, that thou art already ' superannuated ; as, considering the Greyness of thy Head, and the Greenness of ' thy Behaviour, I fear me thou art ; Then, ' O Reverend Granny, lost is my Labour, ' and vain are my Instructions ! I will, however, bear my Testimony in thy Behalf, and ' shew thee, with the help of thy Spectacles, how thou art ever ridden by old ' Women, thy self an old Woman !

Queen *Semiramis* was the greatest King that swayed the Scepter of *Assyria*, and exceeded by far all that succeeded her. She was indeed a most valiant Man, but very lewd, which is no Fault in Princes ; what is very common being very pardonable. To her succeeded her Son, King *Sardanapalus* the Queen, who from his Infancy was an *old Woman*, and very naturally spent all his Time, and his Spinning, amongst young ones. But for all the Harmlessness of this He-Queen, he met an untimely Fate, and violent Hands were laid upon the *Lord's Anointed*,

nointed, to the great Grief of all the *true Churchmen*, that is, the *genuine* Worshippers of *Bell and the Dragon*, of those Days.

Those who came after him were for the most part like him ; and from *Semiramis* to the End of the *Babylonian* Monarchy, which lasted for several Ages, all the Kings proved to be of the Female Gender, except her self. When the Monarchy was translated to the *Medes* and *Persians*, there was but one Emperor, and that was *Cyrus*, who happen'd to be a Man : All the rest were old Women ; Creatures that lived in their Dining Rooms, admired their fine Furniture, wore rich Brocades, play'd with their Monkeys, beat and bit and scratch'd their Servants, and drank Cawdle, the Tea of the Time ; and, in fine, said and did, just as do and say our aged Countesses in t'other End of the Town.

At length the Magicians, or Priests of the *Established Church* of *Babylon*, having great Interest at Court, and Encouragement from the Prince, knocked him on the Head in Return for his Love ; and, by the Murder of his whole Race, and further Cruelty and Craft, seated themselves in his Throne, and yet kept the Murder and Usurpation a Secret from all the World, for some Time. But the reigning Conjuror being, like the rest of the Tribe, given to Wenching, a Mistress of his was directed by her Brother, who suspected sacred Roguery, to search his Majesty's Head for Ears ; and upon Inquiry, she found he had none. For, it had happened, some Time before, that the whole Order

had their Luggs lopped off, for some pious Pranks by them play'd.

Upon this Discovery, the Grandees invaded the Royal Palace, *alias* the Royal Brothel, and put all these *old Women*, that is to say the *Clergy*, that is to say the *Usurpers*, to the Sword. So here ended the Reign (tho' not the Roguery) of these *consecrated Monarchs*, or *spiritual Sovereigns*, or *Pagan Popes*, or *cropped Prelates*, or *Representatives* of ———'s Person, or, &c.

Proceed we next to the Election of a new *old Woman*. For, the Lineal Entail was broken in the Murther of *Adam's Heir* at Law, by the *Babylonian Parsons*; tho' some of their Brethren since have pretended to patch it together again, Impossibilities being of no Weight in the Schemes of *Magicians*.

In this Election one *Darius* carried the Diadem by the Merit of his *Stone-Horse*; which *Stone-Horse*, had it not been for the Folly or Partiality of the Nobility, ought to have mounted that Throne; and then might have been alledged, what now cannot be alledg'd, namely, that once in a Century a Creature of some *Manhood* filled it.

It is the Opinion of that able Critick and Caballist, *Rabbi Nick Nack Ben-Dry Pate*, that the Historians are all Lyars and Dunces in the Account they pretend to give of this Matter; For, says he, *I will lay an even Wager of Fifty to One, that when the Crown of Persia was, by a Vote of the judicious House of L—ds there, hung upon a Nag's Nostrils, whose Neighing was to create a Master of Mankind, and declare the Lord's Anointed; Darius did not act by the Craft of his*

his Groom (which is the Opinion of Ctesias Berosus, Plutarch, &c.) but by the Counsel of his CHAPLAIN, who advised him, as soon as ever he came to the randying Ground, to Bray with all his Might ; and if you take this Method, added the sage Doctor, and Bray with becoming Vehemence, by G—— I'll venture my Soul upon it, you are Monarch of the East. For, continued his Reverence, in such a Hurry and Discord of the Passions, as will necessarily fill every Breast upon so great an Occasion, who will distinguish Chesnut's Voice from your Lordship's Voice, or a F—— from a Pair of Bag-pipes ? Rabbi Nick-nack adds, that Earl Darius finding this Expedient the easiest and most natural to him of all the Expedients in the World ; whenever he found himself upon the Place of Trial, clapp'd his Finger to one Nostril, and brayed with t'other, with so bewitching and so Royal an Accent, that the whole House of NOBLES then present whipped off their Hats, and bowing with their Faces to the Earth, as if the Chaplain himself, or an Altar had stood in their Way, cried out with one Accord, *O King Darius, live for ever*. He was then taken and crowned, being first anointed, and having taken an Oath to defend the Rights of the Clergy and Convocation ; the Archbishop performing the Ceremony, the Reverend Dr. Tygris reading Prayers, and the Chaplain aforesaid preaching the Sermon, which was ordered to be printed by his Majesty's special Command ; and he had the first good Living that fell.

So easily are Kingdoms earned, and by such certain Signs and Criterions does Hea-

ven point out the Persons of Princes ; who, being of Divine Institution, the Divine Will must, in the Case before us, be exceeding clearly conveyed through the Snout of a Horse, or of an Ass ; a very usual Vehicle of Instruction, in all Ages and Climates !

But as every old Woman that totters under a Crown, rules, or scolds, or blasphemes, or murders, or burns, by Divine Appointment ; so the old Women, *alias* Emperors of *Persia*, continued to plague Mankind, and Misgovern, as Heaven's Lieutenants, till *Alexander* the Great, who in the Beginning of his Reign, was indeed a King of the Masculine Gender, came with all the Violence of War, as Heaven's Lieutenants also, to dethrone and put an End to them : For he that was strongest always happened to have the Divine Authority on his Side, contrary, and yet agreeable, to the Orthodox System.

Victrix Causa Diis placuit.

Alexander himself soon degenerated, and, before he arrived to the Flower of his Age, grew an old Woman, like the rest ; became wonderfully addicted to Scolding, and doated upon nothing but fine Gowns, and Citron Water.

His immediate Successors resembled him ; they were at first Men, and at last Driv'lers ; and, for those Kings who succeeded *them*, they were old Wives from their Cradles.

There never was, in all the East, a braver Race of Men than the *Amazons*, whose
Queens

Queens were also the bravest of Kings. *Tamerlane* too happened to be a Prince of a Male Genius ; but excepting as before excepted, there has scarce ever been known such a Character as a King in all the great Continent of *Asia*, though abounding in Monarchs. Their frequent exercising of Craft and Cruelty does in no degree determine them Men ; the same being also exercised, though in a smaller Measure, by Crocodiles, Wolves, Kites, Adders, and the like Emblems and Patterns of such Imperial Old Women as play the Devil by Divine Right.

But these Royal Vermin, who sucked the Blood of their Subjects, and were the relentless Foes of Mankind, became all in their Turn, the Booty and Vassals of the *Romans*, who knocked them on the Head, or imprisoned them, or suffered them to enjoy a precarious and slavish Sovereignty, just as they had behaved themselves.

The *Romans* were a Nation of Men, and Friends to their Species, Lovers of Liberty and Despisers of Life, when these two Blessings were incompatible. They propagated Politeness and Laws ; and hunted down Tyrants and Barbarity, where-ever they came. They taught Mankind to distinguish between manly Obedience, proceeding from rational Consent, which is the Allegiance of *Subjects* ; and involuntary Submission, extorted by Fears and Force, which is the Lot and Condition of Slaves.

Their Religion was of a Piece with their Politicks, and part of them. The Civil Magistrate

was either the Priest himself, or the Priest was prompted by him; and the only Piece of Priestcraft which the *old Republican Clergy* practised, was to lie laudably, by the Direction of the Magistrate, for the Good of the Commonwealth. The Hands of the Government were not tied up from encouraging publick Spirit, by the paultry Fear of alarming the Ecclesiasticks. Every Principle and every Action, which promoted their present Liberty and Prosperity, was lawful, virtuous, and religious, in the Eyes of that noble People; who had no Idea of the Encroachment of Liberty upon Religion, or of the Church's clashing with the State, or of the *Creature's* contending for Superiority with its *Creator*. These were Monsters yet unborn, and Absurdities as yet uninvented, which lived not till Liberty was dead, and till *old Women* succeeded *Heroes*.

The *Romans* preserved their Liberty so long as they preserved their Virtue. At last Ambition and Bribery seiz'd the Senate-House, and were followed by every evil Art and every wicked Purpose: The Corruption began at the Great, who spread it among the People, and debauched them in order to enslave them. Shews, Farces, and Masquerades, made them idle, and depending upon those who gratified them with these fine Sights and Diversions. At long run, their highest Ambition was to live and see *Shews*. In the End, being fully purged of all Sense of Virtue and Freedom, the whole *Roman* People, who had conquered the World, and polished it; they who had deposed

fed Tyrants, and set Mankind free, became themselves an easy Prey to a Traytor of their own raising.

Men have been, and are, generally taught (from their early Youth) to admire and reverence the First *Cæsar* : At which I am astonished ; for he was one of the most wicked and bloody Men that ever the Earth bore. He stuck at no Villany, no Vileness, no Destruction, to gain his Ends, and ruin his Country. *Omnium Feminarum Maritus, & omnium virorum uxor*, is the least worst Character that can be given of him. If he was sometimes guilty of Mercy, it was from no Tenderness of Heart, or for any Righteous Purpose ; but purely to catch Gudgeons, and make his Tyranny popular. In short, *Julius Cæsar*, like most other Conquerors, is intitl'd, in an humbler Degree, to that sort of Glory, which is due to *Belzebub*, for daring the Almighty, and defacing the Creation.

Those who succeeded him in the Usurpation of *Rome*, were for the most Part such an execrable Race of Vermin, that there is scarce any other Character to be given of them, than that *Emperor* and *Old Woman* were Terms synonymous, ever afterwards.

The Empress *Claudius* deserves particular Notice. She left the Empire to the Administration of whatever Person happen'd to be most in her good Graces, for the Time being : And so sometimes her Wife was Queen, and sometimes her Footman ; while the good Woman *Claudius* her self turned Author, and scribbled, and gormandiz'd, and got drunk, every Day of her Life. *Nec temere unquam Triclinio
abscessit*

abscellit nisi distentus & madens, says *Suetonius*. Just like the Learned and Valiant Monarch of another Country, I mean Queen *James* the First of *Magnagascar*; who, 'bating her Aversion to Tobacco, was as true an *Old Woman* as ever driv'led, or tippel'd Geneva. Queen *James* was also a Royal Benefactor to *Grub street*, and President of the Learned Society there. She writ Books, and made Speeches, and was greatly subject to the Loosness; which Last I take to be the true Reason why the Learned *Queen James's* Performances *smell* but little of the Conjuror; seeing that it is observed by *Mr. Locke*, in his Treatise of Education, *that they who are very Loose have seldom strong Thoughts*.

Behold here, O curious Reader, a full and true Character of our present Writers upon most Subjects! even because they write with empty Bellies, or with Pills in their Bellies; and therefore our Preachers and Poets do confess, in their Productions, the Slipperiness of their Guts. Lamentable Case! that amongst all the Legions of the Learned, there is hardly to be found one shrewd *Cositive* Fellow, except my self, and my Admirers!

This Malady of the Guts is also productive of pernicious Effects amongst Statesmen and Crown'd Heads. Her late Majesty took Physick that very Day upon which she Signed the Treaty at *Utrecht*; and it was observ'd that all the while it was making, her Ministry went frequently to the Little House. And indeed it is well known, that during the last Three Years of her Reign, Dr.

Ar—

Ar——th——t was constantly about her, either by himself, or *Proxy* ; that is to say, either the Physician, or the Glisten-Pipe was in daily Practice. The late *D——* of *O——* was taken with a strange Gripping of the Guts, when he was in *Flanders*, which lasted all the Time he stay'd there, and was the untoward Reason why he deserted the Allies. But notwithstanding this, it is thought his late Grace would never have run away from *England*, had not a Right Reverend Son of the Mitre, for his own Righteous Ends, perswaded him that he looked pale, and beg'd him in all Love to take a Purge ; he follow'd the *Ghostly Advice* ; and behold its Operation ! The very next Day he started from his Close-stool, mounted his Horse, and gallop'd away, as fast as if *Jack Ketch* had been at his Heels, and never halted till he came to the *Pretender*, who is himself a poor *Laxative Knight* as ever wore a Garter, and has a Court most miserably afflicted with the *Bloody-Flux*.

There is a considerable King in *Europe*, who has been troubled with Agues, Loosenesses, and Evil Counsellors, for two or three Years: At last he was prevailed upon to take *Astringents*, and turn off the *Cardinal* ; and now all is like to go well with him again.

As to our selves ; God be praised, we are blessed with a Set of Able, *Costive St---f---m---n*, who have not gone to Stool these three Years, except as hereafter is excepted ; that is to say, when they preferred — and — and — and — and — *cum multis alijs* ; as also when they entered into

a — with — and — &c. as likewise when they declared that they had no Intention to repeal — — ; as also when they neglected to — and — and — and — and — and — and — and — and — ; as likewise when they contrived how to silence — — ; as also when they quarrel'd with — and — and — ; as likewise when they formed a Scheme to gain such a vast — ; as also when they agreed to give up — and — ; as likewise when they were entering into a Coalition and Concert with — and — and — : As also when they encouraged — and — and — and — .

Were I to go over all the *Items* and *Exceptions*, I should never have done ; and so I turn my Foot into my first Path, and proceed with my *Dissertation upon Old Women*.

To Queen James succeeded another Queen ; I mean he who was nick-named the *Confessor*. Like King, like Counsellors ! this sucking Monarch got him a Wife, and yet went still in Leading-Strings : Mother *William Laud*, and Madam the *Duke of Buckingham*, who had been his Father's Mistress, were his Governors, *unlimited* and *uncontroulable*.

The Kingdom grew ashamed and weary of being governed and oppressed by such a *Grizzel*, and so pulled her out of her *Elbow-Chair*, and never suffered her to set her Breech in it afterwards ; tho' she tried all Means whatsoever, sometimes scolding, sometimes beseeching, sometimes tricking, and sometimes hiring Bullies to fight for her.

After

After a long civil Contention for Liberty and Dominion, which I pass over in Silence, because it was between *Men* and *Men*, who do not belong to this my Subject; come we, in the next Place, to the riotous Reign of Queen *Sardanapalus* the II^d, who neglected God and Men to drink *French* Wine, and play with *French* Harlots and Lap-Dogs. There began then to be a great Decay of Sobriety, Virtue and Manhood; and nothing triumphed but the Excise, Fornication and the Church.

After a long Reign of Luxury and Feminine Weaknesses, Queen *Sardanapalus* departed this Life, by the pious Assistance of the Priests and her Brother the Prince's *James*; who mounted the Throne, and shew'd herself as errant an *Old Wife* as e'er shook a Scepter.

She, e'er she had well broken the Coronation Oath, which she had not yet taken, taking into her serious Consideration the obvious Infirmities of her Sex and her Understanding, put her self, the first Thing she did, under the Guardianship and absolute Direction of an old Harlot at *Rome*, famous for her stinking Breath, and her treble Night-Cap. Then her Majesty went on, like a Creature superannuated, as she was, to play strange Pranks, some ludicrous, and some mischievous. She worship'd Wafers, pretended to devour her Mediator, and claimed a Right to eat up her People. No Body would take her Bond for a Groat; and she her self own'd that her Oath was not worth a Rush. As she was an Old Woman her

self, so she acted by Old Women; and particularly, she got a Jewry of Old Wives in Long Coats and Coifs, to pronounce a Verdict, that *she might lawfully and innocently do what Mischief and Wickedness she would*: And so said the Sacred Sisters of the Surplice; alledging that every Old Gentlewoman wearing a Crown, had a Divine Charter from God to resemble *Satan* as much as she pleased.

Queen *James*, encouraged by all these fine Speeches, let loose his Inclinations, and devilized with all his Might. But, as he was driving furiously over the Life and Limb of every Subject that stood in his Way, without any Resistance, which was prohibited by the *Convocation*, he unadvisedly galloped over a Nest of the *Wayward Sisters* aforesaid, and took away the Articles of their *Club*. This hurt and provoked them damnably. For, tho' they are the most patient Creatures upon Earth, when Evil befalls others; and will upon that Occasion urge the Sanctity of Submission, with wonderful Zeal; yet such is their mortal Antipathy to Suffering in their own Persons, that, upon any Trial of that Kind, they seem to be the only People upon the Globe, to whom God has given least of the Grace of Resignation.

Queen *James* now found that this was their true Spirit. For, tho' they had themselves pointed out to him the very High Road to Oppression; yet no sooner had he given them a Royal Gripe, but they set up their Apostolick Throats, and yell'd so loud, that they were heard all over the Kingdom,
and

and rous'd the Multitude from all Quarters to their Assistance ; that very Multitude, whom they had, a few Days before, been infatuating into the Disposition and Acquiescence of Slaves, they had now the Art and the Impudence to animate into Rebels, in their own Sense of the Word.

The manly Part of the Nation, and Lovers of Liberty, took Advantage of the Phrenzy of the Prince, and the Animosity of the *Wayward Sisters*, to frighten Queen *James* into a Nunnery, and to set a *King* upon the Throne ; the only One they had seen there, since the Days of King *Bess*, of manly Memory.

The *Wayward Sisters*, finding that they had now in Reality got a King *over* them, and not a Queen *under* them ; which last had been their Lot and Felicity for near a Hundred Years ; and perceiving withal that the King would not kneel to them, or put his Power and Scepter into their Hands ; they grew devilish outrageous and turbulent. The first Thing they did, in their Anger, was to vote themselves forsworn ; for, slap-dash, they stripped the King at one Pull, of his *Divine Right*, and made a Present of it to the excluded Queen *James*, from whom they had also rent it in their Wrath, a Month or two before.

But, in Spite of their Craft, and Disloyalty, the King kept his Crown ; and in Spite of his Mercy and Merit, they preserved their Aversion and Malignity.

A *Queen* came next ; and, with her, Prosperity and a *Kingly Government*, for several Years ; which once more disappointed and provoked the *Wayward Sisters*, who yelped as bitterly as ever ; but yelped unheard, till her Majesty grew old and into a Resemblance of her Ancestors ; and then all Things went Topsy-turvey, and the *Wayward Sisters* flourished and rejoiced. But just as they were in full Cry, and daily Expectation of their *Hereditary Old Woman* from *Abroad*, the other at *Home* drop'd, before they could bring it to pass ; and the Kingdom got a *King* a Second Time, and still keeps him, notwithstanding all the Struggles, and Sedition, and Praying, and Counter-praying, and Preaching, and Drinking, and Lying, and Swearing, and Forswearing of the *Wayward Sisters*, in order to send him *Home* again.

It is indeed agreeable to the Ambition and Self-love of the *Wayward Sisters* to hate *Kings* ; for a Monarch that resolves to be a *Man*, will never put himself under the Dominion of *Old Women*, nor gratify their Spleen : Whereas, when a *Queen* Reigns, the *Wayward Sisters* are all *Kings*. Behold the Reason of their present Rage ! The present Monarch does not touch their Roast, nor their Boil'd ; their Sack, nor their Sherry ; their Copy-Holds, nor their *Peter-Pence*. On the contrary, he gives them all good Usage and Encouragement ; he prefers the Worthy, and is not severe to the Worthless. But all this pleases not the *Wayward Sisters*. They cannot impose upon their Prince, nor piss upon the Laws, nor oppress the People, nor
 prey

prey upon Scrupulous Consciences, nor be forsworn with Success. These are their great Grievances; or, if they have greater, I wish they would produce them. If his Majesty would but please to condescend to their modest Demands, and be led, like their Pupil, or driven like their Property; he might make Beggars or Bacon of his Subjects, and welcome: Nay, Divine Authority would be believed, and Scripture misquoted, to support him in it. But as he behaves himself at present, he will never be the Favourite of the *Wayward Sisters*.

I have thus, with great Labour of Body and Brain, searched into the Records of Time, and given my attentive Reader an edifying Abstract of Universal History, of which I have shewn *Old Women* to have been the Principal *Heroes*. If we look now into the Disputes and Transactions between Nation and Nation, we shall assuredly find that they ever prevailed, or miscarried, according as they employed *Men* or *Old Women* in the Management of their Affairs Civil and Military.

And not to go too far backward in this Disquisition, let us only remember with what a different Spirit and Success the Affairs of *France* were conducted by that Court Forty Years ago, from what the Affairs of another Court were, which shall be nameless: And the Reason lay here; The *French* Ministers wore Beards, and the *B--t--sh* Ministers wore Petticoats; Choice Guardians of the Nation! who, whilst they were supported in their Avarice and Merry-makings, from St.
Ger-

Germaines, cared not what became of their Country, or of *Europe*, or of Christianity.

In the Matters of Peace and War, the Case is just the same. In the last War, for Example, against *France*, a *Male General* was employed, and under him a Race of *Men*; and they hewed down all Opposition: Neither Stone-Walls, nor Entrenchments, nor Numbers, nor the Danger of the Church, could stand before them: Nor could Rivers or *Louis-d'ores* retard their Bravery. They stormed Towns, they routed Armies, they eat Fire, and did every Thing with a *Masculine* Air: Alas! what were a Hundred Thousand *French* Girls, whether Nuns or Soldiers, in their Hands? And for Half a Score *Mareschals* of *France*, they considered them as only so many dancing *Old Women* on Horseback, with Feathers in their Caps, and Distaffs in their Hands, who never missed being kicked Head over Heels, and sent to *Paris* to get their Wigs new-powdered; which yet did not mend the Matter.

It is thought, if the War had continued, that *Madame de Maintenon* would have Headed the Army in *Flanders*, and recruited it with several antiquated Belles, and the Nymphs of *St. Cyr*: This filled all the *Heroës* at *Verfailles* with burning Envy, and they all brigued against her going: But it is thought that all their Politicks would have failed them, had they not luckily represented to the *Grand Monarch*, who was every Day growing *Less*, the *Invincible Louis*, who was every Day *beaten*; the *Immortal Man*, who was dangerously *Ill* of a *Fistula*; that if he
made

made his Old Nurse a General, he would have no Body to 'tend his *Issue behind*. This made great Impression upon him ; and so *Goody Villars* was appointed Commander in Chief, instead of *Goody Scarron*. As soon as she came into the Field, she gave out scolding Speeches how she would do several Womanly Exploits. But she was well paid for her prating, and forced to run to save her Life.

This was the unequal Strife during the Course of the War, between Swords and Distaffs. But when Things began to look towards an Accommodation, the Tables were quite turned. *France*, which hitherto had sent old Wives for Warriors, appointed Now *vigorous Men* for her Negotiators : And another Kingdom, which, to its deathless Glory, had employed HEROES to fight, did, to its endless Infamy, employ old Women to treat ; wretched, toothless, impotent Old Women, who, had their Luck been of a Size with their Brains, must have born the Parish Badge ! The lively and ingenious *John of Lapland*, and the able and accomplished *Thomas Lord Spelwell*, are a Brace of hopeful Statesmen ! And yet with all their Zeal and humble Compliances, they had not the common Capacity to sell the Honour of their Country, even after others had brought it to Market for them, without the Assistance of Prompters.

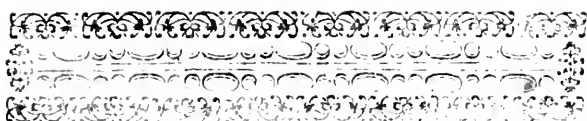
To come now, towards the End, to speak of my own Country, of which I have not hitherto said one Word ; I am sorry to say, that the Increase of *Old Women* grows mar-

velously great amongst us. It is moreover grievous to consider, by what heavy and contemptible Instruments this shameful Change is wrought. Lo ! our Evil cometh from the dull Heart of the City, and we are enchanted by a *stupid Kennel of Stock-Jobbers*, who cheat us out of our Money and our Sex, and then stand God-fathers to us, and, by way of tender Derision, christen us BUBBLES !

Let us, my Brethren and Countrymen, either *properly* and *patiently* put on *Petticoats* ; or resume our *Manhood*, and shake off this shameful Delusion, this filthy Yoke, put upon our Necks by dull Rogues from JONATHAN'S ; plodding Dunces ! who carry their Souls, if they have any, in their Pockets ; and who, if you take them out of the *Alley*, have not the Understanding of Carmen, nor the Agreeableness of Baboons.


I shall conclude this light Paper with some Thoughts of a grave Nature, and dwell for Two or Three Pages, upon a Subject which gives me infinite Delight ; I mean, the present Concord between *St. James's* and *Leicester fields*.





A N
E S S A Y

Upon the late UNION of the
WHIG - CHIEFS.

HE Reconciliation of our Two Courts is of such happy Consequence to the Nation, and the Royal Family, as must be highly pleasing to all Men who love either. Differences of this kind are nothing rare ; but they generally have publick ill Consequences, and weaken the Hands, and embarrass the Wheels of Government. I thank God, the late one has produced more Coldness than Violence, and more Talk than Terror. It is to be presumed, that nothing was done on either Side during the Breach, which may occasion painful Pangs, or angry Reflections, now it is cured. I doubt not but the Union is as sincere, as I wish it lasting.

Tho' I always looked upon the late Misunderstanding as a great Evil ; yet, now it is past, I do not know whether some Good may not come of it. It will have shewn the

Whigs that they are much mistaken, if upon every Fit of Spleen or Disgust, they think to meet a Resource among the *Tories*, who are not used to give any Quarter, much less Shelter, to Men who will but part with a Piece of their Principle. He who goes over to them, must not go halting. If they have a Mind to go to *Rome*, or the *Pretender* ; it is not enough that you do not oppose them, or even that you wish them a good Journey : If you do not go along with them, and accompany them to the very last Stage, you do nothing. A Vote and a Speech now and then will not serve them ; they must have all your Votes, and all your Speeches, otherwise you will never be loved nor trusted.

It will also have taught the *Tories*, that the *Whigs*, however divided, are still too many for them, and can subsist without sneaking Compliances, or dangerous Coalitions with *them*. There have been but few Instances, of late, where they have been suffered to exert that Spirit of Oppression, which is inseparable from them ; and fewer, I hope, of their being offered Seats near the Helm. The Principle of a *Whig*, and that of a *Jacobite*, are so opposite and heterogeneous, that there can be no other Mixture or Comprehension between them, but that of the One's devouring the Other. Every other Project for reconciling them, is Madness or Knavery, and there is not at present the least possible Pretence for it ; which I take to be none of the least Blessings attending the present Agreement.

The *Whig* Interest is again united, and for ought I know, the more strongly for having been disunited. It is therefore a happy and an unexceptionable Season for doing all those necessary publick-spirited Things, which are wanting for the Establishment of *Whiggism*, but which were prevented by the late Rupture. I hope it will now be enquir'd, whether our Universities are not the very Sinks of Sedition, and of every wicked Principle; and whether, enjoying as they do, at the Nation's Cost, Ease and Abundance, they do not pay the Nation, in return, with disaffected, slavish Doctrines, and poisoned Youth. Let the Universities remain but unpurged, and the *Jacobites* may sneer in our Face at every other Scheme of ours for our Security

Princes are always respected Abroad, in proportion to their Strength at Home. It is not to be doubted but this our Domestick Unanimity will raise our foreign Credit still higher, and make the Peace with *Spain*, which seems to linger, go on with greater Alacrity and Ease; and it is reasonably hoped, that hereafter we shall be more upon the Square with our good Allies, both in the Administrations of War, and in the Negotiations of Peace, than our Circumstances have hitherto suffered us to be.

I therefore congratulate my Countrymen upon the present happy Pacification and Unanimity. It will make us considerable to our Friends, and formidable to our Foes. It will enable us to avow, protect, and encourage every publick Principle; and leave us without Excuse, if we disown or neglect it.

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It will render every Opposition impotent, and every Shift and Procrastination scandalous. It will serve to shew, whether our past Omissions and Trimmings were founded upon real Weakness, or sleeveless Pretences; and whether we wanted Power or Inclinations to bid Defiance to Craft and Corruption. Here are publick Grievances, and here is a Call and an Opportunity to redress them. Here are Enemies in our Bosom, and here is a fit Occasion and Capacity to quell and disarm them — If we are in Earnest, the Success is sure. In this Case to succeed well, is only to mean well; and nothing but selfish personal Regards, can obstruct the publick Good, which therefore, we hope, will not be obstructed at all.

We may presume, that no Man, who calls himself a *Whig*, will make Delay or Difficulty, to come roundly into every Scheme which will bring Advantage to his Country, and Honour to himself; we may particularly expect that no Man who bears that Character, will oppose or postpone the Scouring of those Nests of Pedants, who fill the Kingdom with Locusts and Disloyalty; who, by their execrable Positions and Example, have dissolved all the Ties of Conscience, and common Honesty; who have sanctified the hellish Sin of Perjury, and tacked Fame and Reputation to Sedition and Rebellion. They have been heaving at our Constitution, railing at Liberty Civil and Religious, and poysoning the Nation Time out of Mind: So that I cannot see how we can any longer neglect putting a Stop to this popular Contagion,

tagion, without giving up the first Law of Nature, that of Self-Preservation and Self-Defence.

The Prospect I have of the Cure of this great Evil, gives me Joy, as the Continuance of it has often given me Sadness; and I amuse my self with the certain Expectation of a new and agreeable Scene. What I have said may probably appear warm Language; but it is intirely the Effect of publick Spirit, and of my own private Judgment. God knows, I have no personal Animosity towards these Men, who, as to their Morals, deserve Pity; and as to their Genius and Productions, are below Contempt: And as to their Income and Circumstances, no Body envies them their Plenty and Idleness; nor are we demanding a Reformation of Gluttony and Laziness. All that we contend for is, the taking away of their Stings; we will tolerate them to be Drones, but cannot allow them to turn our World upside down.

F I N I S.





ADVERTISEMENT.

IN the Second Part of this *learned Dissertation*, will be considered the Reasons why *Old Women* are suffered to educate our Youth, and govern our Consciences. Humbly address'd to all Parsons and Parish Clerks, and to our Two *famous Universities*.



